



PWPP Grapevine

Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith ~ Support Mission ~ Work for Justice and Peace ~ Build Community ~ Develop Leaders

PW Purpose

Forgiven & freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study
- to support the mission of the church worldwide
- to work for justice and peace
- to build an inclusive caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witness to the promise of God's Kingdom

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Synod Mission Project

Welcome Home SIS 
A Safe Space for System Impacted Survivors



Welcome Home SIS is a non-profit (501c3) Christ-centered organization that acts as a safety net for women post-incarceration.

We provide a safe space and a stable living environment — a sanctuary that initiates, promotes, and continually nurtures the healing process.

We strive to empower women to break the cycle of trauma, addiction, and incarceration to become the women God intended.

"She is clothed in strength and dignity. She laughs without fear of the future". ~ Proverbs 31:25

Come Grow With Us!

All donations received for this mission must be received by **December 15, 2022**. Contributions will support:

The Get Fresh Community Garden and Safehouse Expansion

The Gardening Program to Evoke Change ~ Safehouse Expansion to Allow Service to 4x More Women & Children

Make Checks Payable to PWPP, **Memo Line:** Synod Mission Project

Send to: Mary Ellen Kirby, 5310 McCandless Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15201



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Letter from the Moderator

Greetings to all!!!



Well, what a summer this has been for women everywhere. Just as COVID begins to release its horrid grip, the world around us seems to have gone berserk. We seem to have lost so much ground on so many issues. I feel the tightening terror of despair closing in around me. What can I do?

Well one thing I *cannot* do, is to let myself become "idle" with that despair. I am not alone. And you are not alone. We come together in service to God and His path is well lit. We can help ourselves stay true to the path if we just **stay informed, stay involved, and stay together.**

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity".

Share mission service and support, affirm friendship across the presbytery, and drive back despair with a show of our unity. Like threads in a rope, one is strong, but many are stronger.

A final thought as we look forward to the busy holiday season of a most peculiar year, the PWPP coordinating team has made a particular effort to improve communications. As an organization of women in Presbyterian churches, who may or may not have PW chapters of their own, it is most important that each of us who are active reach out and contact other Presbyterian Women. The coordinating team is delivering the **Grapevine** electronically for the first time! This should allow for more frequent and timely information. It will also mean deeper exploration of mission projects and updates. There will be surveys to open discussions and aid decisions on relevant issues. Please spread the word. Invite the women in your congregation, ask and add their emails to your contact lists. Send us your emails and allow the **Grapevine** to reach you electronically. *There are things we can do, and together we can do even more.*

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity".

Hope to see you all soon, and blessings and safety to you all.

Green & Timely

In an intentional effort to effectually reach each of our PWPP groups with important information in a timely fashion, your PWPP Coordinating Team is compiling a comprehensive contact list including EMAIL.

Please opt in for this version of communication ASAP. Your cooperation will help us be better stewards of the environment and limited financial resources.

Please email your contact information including: **Full Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number(s), Email, and Church Name.**

Send to Denni Glickman, PWPP Moderator at Denni_Glickman@yahoo.com.



PWPP 2022-23 Mission



On the Fourth of July, we celebrated freedom! But some in our communities aren't enjoying the freedoms we do. They are rarely seen. Women, girls, and vulnerable people who are victims of human trafficking are being oppressed and need YOUR HELP! You have the power to send a lifeline, if you join forces with local, Christian-based **Living In Liberty**. **Living In Liberty** has multiple programs that seek to end sex trafficking in our area. Will you help them in their mission?

Living In Liberty has street outreach teams in multiple neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, including Homewood, New Kensington, McKeesport and Butler. They visit and pray with the women to build authentic, trusting relationships where Christian faith is shared. The street outreach teams help to provide a caring presence, some essential basics like hygiene and toiletries, and there are Care Centers where wholesome, hot meals can be provided, along with other resources, like clothing and bus passes, as needed.

Living In Liberty has a Safe Home that provides a loving, home-like refuge for women who are ready to leave the

danger of the streets. Women spend a year or more in addiction recovery, counseling, job training, life skills training and Christian discipleship. They provide Art Therapy to help the women unwind some tangled thoughts and emotions. Women there are nurtured through recovery into Liberty.

Each volunteer has taken the **Human Trafficking 101** training, and committed to a minimum of 6 months of active participation. **Living In Liberty** volunteers have Awareness and Prevention teams that speak to large and small groups about human trafficking and prostitution. They help educate school and church groups about the problem and where it hides. They go to conferences and fairs to teach identification and awareness, and communicate the plight of survivors of sex trafficking.

The Street Outreach, Care Centers, Safe Home, and Awareness and Prevention teams need funding, volunteers and resources to be effective. To help provide revenue, they have a resale shop called Repurposed on McKnight Road.

Living In Liberty has been expanding their outreach via social media to offer alterna-

tives to SW PA victims of sex trafficking who are operating online. They are not experiencing the same kind of shelter insecurity that the street outreach teams engage with, some immediate needs differ, but need the same help to find liberation. Since **PWPP's** Spring Gathering, Valley PW has collected and donated Art Supplies, including adult coloring books. Several church PWs are preparing hot food for distribution to **Living In Liberty's** Safe House and Drop In Centers. Through PW networks, the fundraising Golf Outing in June was publicized. Please RSVP to learn 8 ways you can help reduce sex trafficking in our neighborhoods!

Julie_At_Church@Yahoo.com

"Living In Liberty has multiple programs that seek to end sex trafficking in our area. Will you help them in their mission?"

Cafe Chocolat Retreat

Thanks be to Christ for the success of the Synod event in Bridgeport, WV in late June. Eighteen faithful women participated in the **Cafe Chocolat** "Extravagant Grace" workshop



based on the theme: **Come Revel in God's abundant grace!** "... to the praise of His glorious grace,

which He has freely given us in the One He loves". ~ Ephesians 1:6.

Its concept centered around human emotions and how to deal with mistakes, in light of God's great grace. It was described as meaningful sessions about "Human error meeting Divine Intervention". A simple sewing craft was also well received as it paralleled the day's mission project. The highlight was the closing worship which included a beautiful ceremonial hand-washing service. Glory to God!

Beneficiary Mission Project: Founded in 1941, **City Mission** in Washington, PA exists to share Christ, to shelter, to heal and to restore the homeless, hungry or despairing to independent living.

[Hope for the Homeless | City Mission](https://www.citymision.org/) (<https://www.citymision.org/>).



2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

Save the date to gather in-person and in faithful community at the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, August 8—11, 2024
Details to come!!!

[Online Churchwide Gathering Event and Business Meeting – Presbyterian Women \(presbyterianwomen.org/gathering\)](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering)

“Shall we gather at the river ...” at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, that is—in the city of St. Louis!

Newly elected leaders to the Synod of the Trinity:

Lorraine Holton, Donegal Presbytery, Recording Secretary, (3 years)

Ellie Grove, Donegal Presbytery, Synod Representative to PW Board of Directors (3 years)

Susan Mummert, Carlisle Presbytery, Search Committee, (3 years)

Mary Alice Lightle, Pittsburgh Presbytery, Search Committee (1 year)

Bettie Stammerjohn, Washington Presbytery, Resources & Communications Coordinator (3 years)

Alcinda James, Upper Valley Presbytery, Historian, (3 years)

Program and Directions

Annual Fall Gathering September 17, 2022 Third Presbyterian Church

"PLEASANT UNITY"

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity"! ~ Psalm 133:1*

A full program of education and enrichment is planned for this Fall Gathering, as well as a brief business meeting to elect and install a new Vice Moderator of Issues. Pastor Nancy Kay Stanny will present the 2022-2023 PW/Horizons Bible Study, "Celebrating Sabbath". Feel that you are just one step ahead of the hounds snapping at your heels? That your cup of "to-do's" runneth over? This is the lesson for you. Sabbath is a blessing, and Pastor Nancy's passionate discussion is sure to win you over to the need for a day of respite and reflection, a God-given gift to hit the pause button in our overworked busy lives.

We are delighted to have Assistant Deputy Chief of Investigations, Lavonnie Bickerstaff, from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police speak to us about the very real crime of Human Trafficking in our neighborhoods, and what we can do to fight this cruel exploitation of vulnerable victims in our society.

Julie O'Shaughnessy will give an update on what our churches are doing in support of Living in Liberty, the 2022-2023 PWPP Mission Project, which was introduced at our Fall Gathering in November 2021.

Come share in inspirational worship, reconnect with your PW sisters across the Presbytery, and enjoy the gracious hospitality of the good women of Third.

Car pool as much as possible.

Directions to Third:

From the South and West—Follow Parkway West through the Ft. Pitt Tunnel. Take Parkway East toward Monroeville. Take the Forbes Ave. exit and proceed through Oakland. Follow Forbes Ave. past the University of Pittsburgh to the Carnegie Museum/Library. At the Dinosaur, turn left onto Bellefield Ave. Turn right at the first light onto Fifth Ave. Continue on Fifth Ave. for about 2 miles to the intersection of Fifth and S. Negley Aves. Third Presbyterian will be on your left. Go straight through the traffic light and enter the parking lot at the second opening. On street parking is available on Kentucky Ave. behind the church. Parking is limited. Enter the church social hall from the parking lot entrance.

From the North— Cross the 16th Street Bridge. Turn left onto Liberty Ave. Take right turn onto Bloomfield Bridge (to avoid traffic congestion on Liberty Ave.). Turn left at top of Bloomfield Bridge. Head straight down the hill to Fifth Ave. Pass Baum Blvd and cross Center Ave. Turn left onto Fifth Ave. Follow directions above.

Registration Form

THE 2022 FALL GATHERING

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Third Presbyterian Church

Registration Fee: \$12.00

Registration Deadline: September 13, 2022

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Church: _____

Number of Guests: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to PWPP and mail registration with check to:

**SARAH JANE BEORN
2526 LINDENWOOD DRIVE
WEXFORD, PA 15090**

PLEASE REGISTER ON TIME (earlier than the deadline).
We cannot guarantee a lunch for last minute or walk-in registrations,
depending on paid cancellations.

PWPP Fall Gathering

“Pleasant Unity”

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity”.
Psalm 133:1

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Third Presbyterian Church

5701 Fifth Avenue

Shadyside, PA 15232

412.661.4710 ~ www.thirdchurch.org

Registration begins at 9:00 AM



Grapevine Announcements

2023 PWS Mission Project

Please suggest ideas for the 2023 PW in the Synod of the Trinity mission project to our PW in the Synod of the Trinity Mission Coordinator, Judith Jerry of Bidwell Presbyterian Church, email: peabody636@verizon.net, phone: 412.415.3523

PWPP Welcome

The PWPP would like to welcome our newest **Grapevine Editor: Ms. Audra V. Walker** of Bidwell Presbyterian Church. She has vast newsletter experience and is excited to share her talent with PWPP.

Contact Information:

Phone: 412.894.6396

Newsletter Email: grapevinepwpp@gmail.com

Personal Email: audra.walker6396@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women in East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Like many Presbyterian Women, PW in ELPC supports programs to feed the hungry—the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank as well as a pantry and community lunch program serving the local neighborhood, five days a week. Legislative action is also needed to address hunger. The need is urgent, with increased demand on U.S. food pantries, a worldwide grain shortage and other hunger issues.

We are planning an "Offering of Letters" to members of Congress on World Communion Sunday, October 2. The offering of letters is an advocacy initiative of **Bread for the World**, a partner of Presbyterian Women on issues of faith, mission and social justice. **Bread for the World** is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. [Bread for the World](https://www.bread.org/) (https://www.bread.org/)

You can hear Rev Eugene Cho, president/CEO of **Bread for the World**, on Friday, October 7, at 7:00 PM. Rev Cho will be the keynote speaker at the **2022 World Mission Initiative Conference** and McClure Lecture, **October 7-8 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**. The keynote address will be free. The conference, "Missional Leadership in a Time of Disruption," will be in-person on campus and livestreamed online. Our PW in ELPC has supported the World Mission Initiative Conference for many years. For updates and more information see [2022](#)

[McClure Lecture \(pts.edu\)](https://www.pts.edu/McClure-2223)
(https://www.pts.edu/McClure-2223).

This year's Horizons Bible Study, **Celebrating Sabbath**, promises to be a breath of fresh air in these stressful times. This study invites us to embrace Sabbath's life changing ways as well as study what the Bible says about Sabbath. You are invited to join us. We meet online on the first Monday evening and first Tuesday morning September through May. Email: PW.ELPC@gmail.com for more information and the zoom link.

Shabbat Shalom, may you have a peaceful

*Jesus said,
'You give
them
something to
eat'*



*Shabbat
Shalom*

PW Stance on Roe vs. Wade

As a faith-based women's organization committed to work for justice and peace, Presbyterian Women, Inc., stands for gender equity and the right to reproductive justice and against the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v Wade, the historic Supreme Court ruling that provides a constitutional right to choose to terminate a pregnancy. This right ensures human agency and gender equity. In reversing Roe v Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision grossly undermines gender equity and leads to a complex system of injustices that critically impacts people across the country, with an undue burden falling on low-income, marginalized, and vulnerable communities.

In 1992, the 204th PC(USA) General Assembly said, "the Christian community must be concerned about and address the circumstances that bring a woman to consider abortion as the best available option. Poverty, unjust societal realities, sexism, racism, and inadequate supportive relationships may render a woman virtually powerless to choose freely" (Minutes, pp. 367–368, 372–374).

The 204th General Assembly also affirmed "the strong Christian presumption is that since all life is precious to God, we are to preserve and protect it," and said, "the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) encourages an atmosphere of open debate and mutual respect for a variety of opinions concerning the issues related to problem pregnancies and abortion." The GA provided guidance on circumstances that lead to prayerful decisions to terminate pregnancy (Minutes, Journal, pp. 367–368, 372–374). Presbyterian Women is committed to building inclusive community for all women, respecting the wide range of beliefs surrounding these issues.

Relying on foundations of Christian belief, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides clear guidance regarding personal agency and choice. "God alone is Lord of the conscience." All humans are endowed with moral agency to make choices. We believe "the artificial or induced termination of a pregnancy is a matter of careful ethical decision of the patient . . . and therefore should not be restricted by law" (Minutes of the 182nd General Assembly (1970), United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., p. 891). During the 220th General Assembly (2012), the PC(USA) affirmed, "no law should impose criminal penalties against any [person] who chooses or physician who performs a medically safe abortion . . . and no law should sanction any action intended to harm or harass those persons contemplating or deciding to have an abortion" (Minutes, Journal, p. 1698–1699).

Presbyterian Women, Inc., affirms the standing of the PC(USA), the June 24, 2022, statements of the Office of Public Witness and the PC(USA) Stated Clerk, and the June 23–25, 2022, work of the General Assembly Committee on Health Issues, and encourages Presbyterian women to

- Support full access to reproductive health care (GA Minutes, Journal, 2012, p. 1698).
- "Protect the integrity of individual conscience by affirming the ability of women and men to make . . . decisions in matters of reproductive health, including decisions about infertility, parenthood, and responses to problem pregnancies, in consultation with their families, pastors, health-care professionals, and scientifically accurate medical information" (GA Minutes, 2012, p. 1699).
- Know the facts about reproductive justice and share the information.
- Donate to local health clinics.
- Accompany and support people who need reproductive health care.
- In states where there are no reproductive health options, work with others in the community to provide transportation, housing, and other needs.
- Ask your churches to speak up regarding gender equity, reproductive justice, and the PC(USA) position.
- Support pro-reproductive health candidates.
- Pray to God and pray in public with your faithful actions.

On behalf of Presbyterian Women, Inc.'s., Board of Directors and Staff,

For information, contact **Kathleen Keefer**, chair, national Justice and Peace Committee, kathleenkeefe.pw@gmail.com, or **Susan Jackson Dowd**, PW, Inc., executive director, susan.jackson-dowd@pcusa.org.

Denise "Denni" Glickman
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DATES TO REMEMBER

2022

September 23
November 18
December 10
December 15
December 30

Deadline for Grapevine Article Submissions
Deadline for Grapevine Article Submissions
4th Quarter Mission Pledge Drive
Synod Mission Project Donation
All Year-end Offerings (Thank/Least
Coin/Birthday)

2023

February 17
February 28
March 10

Deadline for Grapevine Article Submission
Annual Contingent Dues Due
First Quarter Mission Pledge Due

2022 Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women



The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. A century later, the newly formed Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted the Thank Offering as one of the two grant-making programs of the national organization. Since then, close to \$27 million has been granted to more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world from the PW Thank Offering.

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.

In 2022 the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 24 Thank Offering applications and selected 10 projects for funding. Eight of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

"Always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:15b-18

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank>
